

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 11-17, 20-24, 28 and 30-32 remain pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 11-17, 20, 22, 24 and 30-32 have been allowed.

Claims 21, 23, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 21, 23 and 28 have been amended to correct their dependency as required by the Examiner. In view of these amendments, each of the pending claims is believed to be in all aspects in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Prosecution on the merits of this application has been closed in accordance with the practice under Ex Parte Quayle. The current amendments correct the outstanding formal matters and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arranged for such an interview.

Application No.: 09/824,643

Docket No.: 32011-171033

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jeffri A. Kaminski

Registration No.: 42,709

James R. Burdett

Registration No.: 31,594

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant